

The Inkwell

Special Edition 115

Armstrong State College, Savannah, Georgia

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Standing, from left to right: Redding, Westley, Crump, Booker, King, McLendon, Abrams, Griffin, White, Nichols, Fulton, Truell, Rutley, Gatewood, Harris, McDonald, Hill. Kneeling: Coach Fredrick Jones, Coach Leo Richardson.

SSC Tigers are ready for Armstrong contest

by Bobby Adams of Savannah State

Possibly one of the most talked about activities of the week around Savannah State's campus and the city of Savannah is the clashing of the city's only four year colleges, Savannah State and Armstrong, in what could develop into one of the biggest rivalries in the University System of Georgia.

A brief look at the Tigers finds them at the 500 mark after winning the first home game this season last Wednesday night with a 85-78 defeat of Edward Waters College for their second conference win.

SSC picked up two victories in the annual Middle Georgia Classic, stopping Florida A&M 105-104 and slipping past Bethune Cockman 105-94 in the championship game. SSC's other victory was a 102-70 match over Paine College in Augusta.

In the loss column Benedict College spoiled SSC's debut nipping them 93-84, and the Tigers of South Carolina trounced the Tigers 89-79 a few days after SSC captured the MGC.

A three game road trip saw the Tigers fall to defending Southeastern Athletic Conference champions Albany State 133-93 and the S.A. I.C.'s number one team, B-C, 141-80.

A quick look at the Tiger's starting five finds two new faces in guards Ezra Gatewood (4.0) and former forward Jimmy Rutley (9.9) who hold

down the back court. The front court is intact with two freshmen 6-5 Alan Nichols, a sensational player with a 18.1 average, and center Vincent White, 6-7, who averages 13.0 PPG. The other forward spot is held down by 6-5 Walter Fulton who missed last season but is on the ball this season with a 16.6 PPG average and nine rebounds per game.

Reserve wise, SSC appears to be in good shape with 6-5 Morris Griffin, who plays both forward and center, first in line in the front court. Forward Johnny Abrams adds extra punch to the boards and is a good offensive player.

At guard there is Jimmy Westley alternate starter and the team's leading scorer last season. Westley sports a 13.6 PPG average now. Carl Crump, an all conference selection last season at guard, has been sidelined since the Albany State game but is expected to be ready for the Armstrong tilt to add extra scoring power with his 13.4 game average.

Overall the Tigers have the makings of one of the top teams in the S.E.C.A. With a little defensive work and continued scoring power, they look forward to finishing close to the top and being in the running when the annual S.E.C.A. toumey is held at SSC February 22-24.



Vincent White

Armstrong and Savannah State will meet tonight in first encounter ever

by Dick Sanders, Inkwell Sports Editor

In a new school, with new traditions being added to the old, it is not unusual to see another such tradition being added to the sports life of Armstrong State College.

Tonight many of us will witness the first in a long series of intra-city games against Savannah State College, another unit of the University of Georgia system.

Head Coach Bill Alexander was amazed to find out that a series with ASC's cross-town neighbor had not been started before and he quickly scheduled a single game with the Tigers.

The contest(s), which will each year decide the city championship on the college level, will be played in the Sports Center on Intermediate Road because neither the SSC gym nor the Pirates' contains adequate seating for the crowd that is expected. Both Coach Alexander of ASC and Coach Richardson of Savannah State believe that the matching of the two local colleges will draw good support from the community as well as from the institutions themselves.

Alexander believes that the Pirates' chances are difficult. The Tigers, he says, have a good, strong team and, of course, will have the height advantage. The Pirate mentor doesn't let this bother him and has decided to use his regular game plan of a controlled offense and an aggressive defense against the Tigers.

The players, too, don't seem too concerned about the game. They look at it as another hard game on a very hard schedule. Danny Sims,



Danny Sims

Armstrong center Danny Sims is unique in college basketball

If you will remember, at the first of the 1967-68 basketball season, you were told that the Armstrong State College Pirates would display a good, fast and interesting brand of basketball. Although the Pirates' record on the season is 2-9, the team has, indeed, played good and fast, and those of us who attend the games regularly have become interested in this particular brand of ballplaying.

The latest brainstorm from Head Coach Bill Alexander was to put someone else in the center position. We all thought it would be some giant that the Coach had signed secretly to one of those full scholarships that are just going begging in the Coach's office (wishful thinking - on both points!). To our surprise the new center was not a 6'11" transfer from UCLA, it was our own 5'8" giant Danny Sims.

I thought the coach had stayed out in the sun too long

when Sims started the Piedmont game at the new position. After talking with the coach, however, the reasons, I discovered were very logical.

Larry Burke, at 6'3", can't get many tips when he is jumping against centers that are 3-7 inches taller than he is. Since we don't normally get the tip anyway, Alexander decided on the X switch. The change creates a mismatch and puts some tall guy guarding Sims while at the same time takes the big man away from his normal rebounding spot.

According to the Pirate mentor, no big man can effectively guard Sims. The senior from Savannah High is definitely one of the best, if not THE best ball handler on the team. His moves are much too quick for a tall man to react in a reasonable amount of time to guard Sims as well.

At 5'8", Danny Sims has to be the shortest center in college basketball today. The Pirates have set some records already this year and many will be set anew with each game, but a 5'8" center - that's a record that will probably stand for some years to come.

the Pirates' 5'8" center, and Danny Hattrich, a 6'2" forward, both seem to think that this contest could develop into a real good rivalry in a couple of years. As for their chances against the Tigers, both players agree that the Pirates can win if they have a good night shooting. That shouldn't be too difficult for the ASC five since they are averaging 47% in eleven games from the floor and 72% from the free throw line.

In the near future the two schools will play each other more often. There are two games scheduled for next season and a possibility for a holiday tournament that would include both local institutions and two guests invited by both schools.

Colleges share game proceeds

Proceeds from tonight's game will be split between the competing schools on a 50-50 basis. Expenses have been handled in the same manner.

For Armstrong State, it marks the first time the Athletic Department will directly receive the profits from a "gate". Normally, such funds are channelled through the Student Activities budget; but through special prior arrangement, this will be waived for tonight's clash.

Expenses for the game include renewal of the facility, employment of police and fire protection, ticket sellers and takers, the electric clock operator, ticket printing and other minor items. This, of course, does not include the time spent in arranging a suitable date when both teams could be free to play and the Sports Center was available.

But the expenses are far outweighed by the profits - whatever the financial gain may be, and by the satisfaction of beginning a rivalry destined to become one of Savannah's most attractive in the coming years.



Danny Hattrich ranks high in the nation with a field-goal mark of 58%.

TICKETS

Tickets are still available for the 8:00 p.m. game at the Sports Center: Adults \$2, students \$1.

State Coach has praise for Pirates; SSC students expect Tiger victory

When Armstrong State College meets Savannah State College tonight in what could turn out to be the biggest rivalry in the Hostess City,



the Tigers will have only one advantage — height. This is the belief of Tiger Coach Leon Richardson, who believes that the Pirate offense will be something which many of the SSC players may have never seen. The Pirates run a control — type offense which is designed to pull the defense out of position, allowing an ASC player an open shot to the basket. Savannah State's offense on the other hand, is of the shoot-and-run variety. The Tigers have normally scored much higher than the Pirates, but they take more shots.



Jeff Aycock

always in the proper place at the proper time on defense and usually pull several rebounds off the boards. In the past the Pirates have had difficulty with offensive caroms, usually holding their own under the defensive boards.

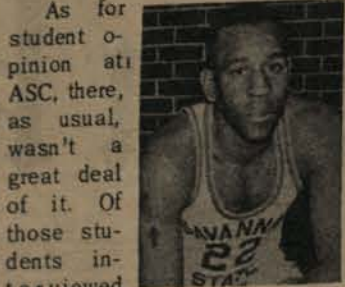


Student opinion at Savannah State College is seemingly very high for the intra-city contest. In talking with several students over a cup of coffee, I found that the general consensus was that the Tigers would "walk all over Armstrong." One young man first gave me "Armstrong and 20 points." Then, after finding out the ASC's record is 2-9, he upped his offer to "Armstrong and 30 points." Obviously not up on his own school's record, the student lowered his wager to "Armstrong at 15 points" after dis-



covering that the Tigers' record is 4-4. One young coed said that the only way Armstrong would walk over Savannah State would be when the Pirates walked off the court in

humiliating defeat.



As for student opinion at ASC, there, as usual, wasn't a great deal of it. Of those students interviewed most of whom have seen the Pirates play, said that it would be a very rough game and that the Pirates would be very hardput to defeat the taller Tigers.



All that is left is to attend the game and to see for ourselves the outcome of the rivalry between the city's two four-year institutions.

Kelly finds the range; Frostproof boy gets hot

Doyle Kelley, one of a very few out-of-towners on the Armstrong State College basketball team, has finally found himself. Head Coach Bill Alexander is very pleased with Kelley's positive change.

The junior history major from Frostproof, Florida, found the range against Piedmont College on January 6th. Kelley was good on 8 of 9 field goals in the first half and finished the game as high point man with 21. Kelley hit on 71% of his shots from the floor in that game.

The Brevard Junior College transfer student "kept up the fire" in the Pirates' encounter with Florida Southern on January 8th. Kelley hit on 6 of 8 from the floor for a 75% mark—the highest so far this season in a single game. Kelley was one of four Pirates who hit in double figures that night.

The Pirate attack is based on a control offense and an aggressive defense, both of which Kelley plays well. On defense the 5'10" guard is in good position at all times and



ASC Coach Bill Alexander



John Tatum

Rich joins Pirate squad, Scores 20 in first game

When you need another good basketball player, the best place to find him is at a good basketball school. David Rich is the player and Brevard

Junior College of Cocoa, Florida, is the school.

David is not unfamiliar to Savannah sports fans. The 6'0" guard won several local, state and regional honors during his career at Groves High School. The younger brother of former ASC star Malcolm Rich signed a grant-in-aid to Armstrong in December. To date, he has played in four games with the Pirates.

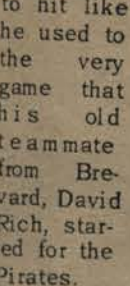
In his first game against Piedmont, Rich hit on 6 of 10 field goals (60%) and added 8 free throws for a total of 20 points. Coach Bill Alexander speaks of David as a good all-around ballplayer. This is illustrated by the fact that the sophomore guard had 8 assists and 9 rebounds in addition to his 20 points. Although David was able to muster only one point against Florida Southern, he had 12 assists.

David has a great outside shot that has taken a lot of the pressure off of Danny Sims and Danny Hattich, allowing them more freedom of movement. Rich, despite his ability, is a fine team player. He works the ball in and passes up some of his long shots in order to assure the Pirates of two points.

There is a lot of basketball in the youngster from Savannah and if you go to some basketball games, you will undoubtedly see some fine playing.

Coach Bill Alexander has said that Doyle has the potential if he'll only relax and do the job that everyone knows he can do.

It may or may not be coincidence that Kelley began



Doyle Kelley

to hit like he used to the very game that his old teammate from Brevard, David Rich, started for the Pirates. But it is fact that the two transfers from Brevard fit in very well with Coach Alexander's plans for the Pirates. Both Rich and Kelley are excellent all around ballplayers, as can be seen in their individual statistics. Kelley has raised his point-per-game average from 5.8 in 9 games to 7.8 in eleven games. In the Piedmont and Florida Southern contests, Doyle hit on 16 of 22 field goal attempts for a tremendous 74%. Overall this season, Kelley is hitting at a fine 45% from the floor.

HOME GAMES

- Jan. 26, Fri. Shorter
- Jan. 27, Sat. LaGrange
- Feb. 16, Fri. Ga. State
- Feb. 17, Sat. W. Ga.
- Feb. 24, Sat. Ga. S'western

Statistics announced

In eleven games, the Pirates of Armstrong State College have done well for themselves and for their school considering the difficulty of the schedule that they play.

Some of the standouts in the Pirate lineup are little Danny Sims who has a 16.1 point per game average (46%), and is in the top 14 players in

the nation in free throw percentage with 87.5%. Senior Danny Hattich, too, is rated very high in the individual polls. The 6'2" forward is averaging 17.8 points per game (58%). Other players in double figures are last year's "Most Valuable Player," John Tatum, 10.7; first-year man Larry Burke, 10.5; and David Rich with 10.5.

PLAYER	GAMES PLAYED	FGA	FGM	Pct.	FTA	FTM	Pct.	Pts.	Average
Rich	2	18	6	33	14	9	64	21	10.5
Kelley	11	74	34	45	23	18	78	86	7.8
Sims	11	129	60	46	67	58	88	178	16.1
Hattich	11	141	81	58	51	34	67	196	17.8
Burke	11	85	46	54	38	24	63	116	10.5
Tatum	11	110	45	41	35	28	80	118	10.7
Aycock	11	94	34	36	42	27	64	95	8.6
McCurry	3	6	3	50	0	0	00	6	2.0
Moses	3	1	1	100	4	1	25	3	1.0
Others	19	8	42	6	3	50			
TOTALS	677	318	46.9	280	202	72.1	838	76.1	

GO, PIRATES